

accustomed to regard as normal and even on certain social tendencies and movements. An instance is furnished by the curious condition known as Eonism, which forms the subject of the very long first chapter.

This condition was so named by Havelock Ellis in reference to the Chevalier d'Eon—the classical example, of whom a detailed account is given. It has since been named, by the Continental writers, Transvestism, but the name Eonism seems to be preferable, as being more elastic and comprehensive. It is characterized by a powerful impulse on the part of the affected person to behave and dress like the opposite sex. Such "cross-dressing" appears to yield not only satisfaction but often intense pleasure. It may be accompanied by extreme sexual excitement, but on the other hand, the sexual temperament may be quite normal or almost completely undeveloped; but it is not associated, as might have been expected, with sexual inversion. Many of the affected persons are so nearly normal, mentally, that the anomaly never becomes known, the cross-dressing being indulged in only in secret. In other cases, as in that of the Chevalier d'Eon, the practice is carried on so openly and continuously that the "transvestist" passes effectually as a person of the sex appropriate to the dress adopted.

The study of this chapter suggests various questions and speculations. Does this strange pleasure in mimicking the dress and behaviour of the opposite sex correspond to any normal satisfaction in the actual sex and its appurtenances? Or, again, may an Eonistic tendency be diffused by suggestion so as to assume a quasi-epidemic form? The author makes no reference to the "pretty fellows" of the eighteenth century with their engaging, lady-like costume and manners, but that singular vogue seems to come within the area of inquiry, as do some of the more extreme examples of modern feminine dress and coiffure. Suggestive in another connection—the medico-legal—is the anomaly known as Kleptolagnia to which Chapter VIII is devoted; in which the perverted sexual feel-

ings find satisfaction in certain special kinds of theft. The chapters on Narcissism and Undinism are of more purely psychological interest as is also the long chapter on the Mechanism of Sexual Deviation, illustrated by a minutely detailed narration of the experiences of a particular 'patient.'

When we look at the volume as a whole, and more especially when we consider it in connection with its six predecessors, we are impressed, not only by the erudition and the immense outfit of special knowledge of which it shows evidence, but by the patient, skilful labour—extending over the best part of a long life—that must have gone to the assembling of so great a mass of original material. Some of the self-revealing statements may strike the unspecialized reader as quaint and rather unpleasant; but they are the indispensable foundations on which exact knowledge may be built, even as the unsavoury gropings of the pathologist in the post-mortem room are essential to exact knowledge of bodily disease. The collection of this original material must have been a work of enormous difficulty, and we cannot sufficiently admire the untiring concentration of effort which has, at long last, brought this great work to completion. The *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* form a monument of labour and learning. In their beginning they opened the way into an unexplored region of research; and they must remain an inexhaustible source of knowledge and guidance to all future workers in this field.

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Haire, Norman, Ch.M., M.B. (Ed.) *Sexual Reform Congress: Proceedings of the Third Congress of the World-League for Sexual Reform.* London, 1930. Kegan Paul. Pp. 670. Price 30s.

THE holding of the Third Congress of the World-League for Sexual Reform in the summer of 1929 was for England an event of first importance. For the first time in the memory of even the oldest of us sex questions were discussed on an open platform in a manner that a generation earlier would have raised a chorus of protest. Instead of

this the Press eagerly supported the venture and made it—without impropriety—a huge success. Now we have before us the printed report of the Congress, ably edited by Dr. Norman Haire, and it makes very good reading indeed.

For the first time the opinions of experts on sex problems that otherwise are only accessible with difficulty on account of the general taboo on sex books, are made available to the ordinary reader. The promoters of the Congress are to be congratulated on having had the courage to publish such an array of sound articles on such varied problems as monogamy, birth-control, abortion, prostitution, rejuvenation, etc. It would be difficult to find any book that offers so much scientific information in such a comprehensive manner, and it should prove a mine of information for the uninitiated. Yet we do not wish it to be understood that the book contains only popular articles, though there are many such. On the contrary, some of the experts have supplied most important and newest information on their special subjects.

It would seem invidious to single out from the large number of articles any special ones. If we do so, it is only in order to illustrate the wide scope of the collection as a whole. The views advocated in most papers are those of extremists. It may be doubted whether the confidence of some of the writers is justified by the facts. No doubt, a judicious reader will be able to make his own adjustments. Perhaps the best way of giving an adequate idea of the book is to table the subjects in a short résumé.

The failure of monogamy is taken for granted by a number of writers (Vera Brittain and others); indeed, V. F. Calverton tries hard to prove that even women are not monogamous. Though this is not improbable, to our mind the reasons adduced do not seem to be cogent. There follows from the failure of monogamy the right to extra-marital motherhood, advocated by R. B. Kerr. In fact, freedom for extra-marital relationship is the keynote of the articles of many writers (especially Mrs. Dora Rus-

sell and others). Here, too, the fervour of the reformers is in most cases not sufficiently tempered by the true wisdom of sound sociological and psychological knowledge. Note for instance the proposition of one writer (Dr. W. J. Robinson) that prostitution should be legalized and be considered "as legitimate an occupation as any other." As a matter of fact, prostitution, at least in England, is decaying rapidly, a fact due to a better and healthier feeling among the younger people who are substituting for it a more intimate relationship which, though by no means ideal, is certainly higher than prostitution of old.

Quite in conformity with the idea of sex liberty is the notion discussed by some writers of the disintegration of the modern family. It would follow from the right of spinsters to motherhood (R. B. Kerr) that the State will have to take over the care of all children thus born. Dr. Eden Paul has no doubt that 'State homes' for children and not the homes of one's family will be the next phase in the natural evolution of civilization to which present-day tendencies are pointing strongly. He may be right if we are to judge from the events taking place in Soviet Russia. Indeed, the short résumé by Professor Dr. N. Pasche-Oserski on the Marriage Law in the Soviet Union is one of the most interesting papers in the whole book. Soviet Russia makes no difference between legitimized registered marriage and mere living-together (non-registered) marriage. Relationship is based not on marriage, but on blood relationship. Illegitimacy is not recognized in Soviet Russia; there are neither illegitimate children nor illegitimate parents. This is perhaps the most revolutionary step ever taken in any civilized community, and it remains to be seen how it will work out under modern conditions.

This brings us to another point. In Soviet Russia wilful abortion is not a punishable offence. There are quite a number of writers who advocate the right of a mother to decide whether she is to have a child or not (F. W. Stella Browne). Birth-control and sterilization are discussed in a

number of articles (Dr. Norman Haire, Dr. Ernst Gräfenberg, the inventor of the internal uterine ring, and others). As is to be expected all writers speak in favour of birth-control and its advantages, or, at least, discount its disadvantages as practically negligible. Another subject that has met with wide interest in the lay Press is that of rejuvenation, or, more correctly, re-activation in man and woman. Here we have papers by Dr. Harry Benjamin (New York) and the late Dr. Peter Schmidt (Berlin). Though the Steinach operation for the re-activation of man has been accepted by many scientific workers, there is coming material to hand that throws considerable doubt upon the trustworthiness of the results supposed to have been achieved. It would seem necessary to restrain our first enthusiasm, as at the present stage of know-

ledge the whole question must be considered still *sub judice*.

A most fascinating article is that on "Sex Differences in Dress" by Professor J. C. Flügel, who opens out by his consideration of Freudian principles quite a new view on an otherwise much hackneyed subject. It is a pity that the psycho-analytical views of the Freudian school, which are of such vast importance in their epoch-making discoveries, have not found more frequent expression in the Congress, the articles by Barbara Low and Theodore J. Faithful being the only printed contributions. G. B. Shaw is, as usual, most illuminating in a most provocative manner. His warning that democracy is not necessarily identical with toleration is only too timely. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

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